

Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 AID-10 IGA-01 NSC-10 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 NEA-06 EB-03 PRS-01

DRC-01 (ISO) W

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R 020710Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3040

USUN NEW YORK 054

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANAA 2307

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNDP, EAID

SUBJ: REPLACEMENT OF UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE

1. EMBASSY RELIABLY INFORMED THAT UNDP RES REP
WILLEM J. H. KOUWENHOVEN IS TO BE TRANSFERRED FROM SANAA
IN DECEMBER AFTER A LITTLE OVER A YEAR IN THE YEMEN
ARAB REPUBLIC. BEGIN NOFORN: ALTHOUGH INITIALLY
GIVEN BENEFIT OF DOUBT BY YARG AND FOREIGN AID MISSIONS,
PARTICULARLY US, KOUWENHOVEN, A DUTCH NATIONAL, EARLY
PROVED AN INCOMPETENT MANAGER ALTHOUGH UNDOUBEDLY
A SOUND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THEORETICIAN.
DURING HIS INCUMBENCY, MORALE IN UNDP HAS TUMBLED TO
ROCK BOTTOM. AS UNDP PROGRAMS FALTERED ONE AFTER ANOTHER,
YARG DISSATISFACTION WITH KOUWENHOVEN MOUNTED. IN
SEPTEMBER, A YARG REQUEST FOR KOUWENHOVEN'S

REPLACEMENT WAS PUT TO UNDP DIRECTOR PETERSON. AT ABOUT
THE SAME TIME KOUWENHOVEN'S QUALIFICATIONS CAME UNDER
CLOSER SCRUTINY BECAUSE OF HIS APPARENT FAILURE TO INVES-

TIGATE WITH SUFFICIENT SERIOUSNESS CHARGES OF A SCANDAL
INVOLVING DIVERSION OF COMMODITIES BY WFP OFFICIALS ON UNDP
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STAFF. THIS EMBASSY ITSELF HAD REGRETFULLY COME TO

CONCLUSION THAT AN EFFECTIVE UNDP PROGRAM IN YEMEN WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE AS LONG AS KOUWENHOVEN REMAINED IN CHARGE. END NOFORN.

2. A FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENT OF US POLICY IN YEMEN IS TO ENCOURAGE A DYNAMIC UN DEVELOPMENT PRESENCE. IN ADDITION OUR OWN BILATERAL PROGRAMS USG IS HERE, AS WORLDWIDE, THE LARGEUT CONTRIBUTOR TO UNDP AND IBRD/IDA ACTIVITY. IN FACT, MORE THAN 50 PERCENT OF TOTAL US ASSISTANCE TO YAR RUNS THROUGH THESE INTERNATIONAL CHANNELS. AS A MATTER OF POLICY, WE ALSO WISH SEE UNDP ASSERT A MORE ENERGETIC ROLE AS UMBRELLA AND COORDINATOR OF BILATERAL PROGRAMS, WHICH IT HAS SINGULARLY FAILED TO DO HERE SO FAR.

3. GIVEN FOREGOINGT, WE THINK IT WOULD BE PROPER FOR US TO SHOW AN INTEREST IN UNDP THINKING ABOUT A SUCCESSOR TO KOUWENHOVEN. IF DEPT AGREES, WE RECOMMEND USUN BE AUTHORIZED DISCUSS WITH PETERSON TO: (A) CONVEY OUR CONCERN FOR AN EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF UNDP IN YAR, A RLDC IN WHICH WE ARE COMMITTED WORK FOR VIGOROUS FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PRESENCE, INCLUDING MULTILATERAL AND (B) ASCERTAIN STATUS OF ACTION ON REPLACEMENT FOR KOUWENHOVEN AND QUALIFICATIONS OF INDIVIDUALS BEING CONSIDERED. FYI: AT ONE POINT, WE UNDERSTOOD JAPAN WAS PRESSING FOR RES REP JOB HERE. SINCE JAPAN HAS NO TIES HERE THIS WAS FELT TO BE INAPPROPRIATE. SO, TOO, WOULD BE SELECTION OF AN ARAB. YEMENIS DO NOT MIND USE OF ARABS IN SUBORDINATE POSITIOIS BUT WANT A RES REP

WHO STANDS ALOOF FROM ARAB POLITICS AND PERSONALITIES.
CRAWFORD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PERSONNEL, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SANAA02307
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SANAA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731250/aaaabkyk.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 FEB 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <01-Feb-2002 by collinp0, PRIVACY>; RELEASED <20 FEB 2002 by garlanwa>; APPROVED <20 FEB 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPLACEMENT OF UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE
TAGS: EAID, YE, UNDP, (KOUWENHOVEN, WILLIAM J H)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005